WAR STORIES.

The Experience of J. C. Stribling, C. S. A., in Searching for his Brother, who Died in North Carolina After the Surrender.

Charleston Sunday News.

Ford has told, through the columns the sad news Jack Stribling had of the Charleston News and Courier- received a mortal wound in the thigh in relating the story of the proscrip- even after the surrender of Lee, and tion by lot and subsequent official had been left near Fayetteville, N murder of James Miller, a Confederate | C., in the hands of strangers. I desoldier and then prisoner of Sherman's | termined to go at once to North Caroarmy-the appalling experience of line in search of my lost brother. Jack Stribling, who went to the war hoping that I might find him still in company E. of Gre's Rifles, from living and that I might administer old Pickens County, and who was af- to his comfort and eventually bring terwards transferred to Black's ca- him home to delight the sorrow-scarvalry. It was during his service in red household with his presence. this causing that Jeck Stribling was The problem of how I should reach captured by Sherman's army in a Fayetteville at once suggested itself. battle over Fayetteville, North Caro- This was a distance of 300 to 400 lina, which occurred after Gen. Lee miles and through a country which had sucreadered, in 1865. Mr. Ford, the writer of the article mentioned, the firebrand march of Sherman's and what was one of the unfortunate | terrible army, leaving nothing but soldiere that were captured during this battle, tells feelingly of his reminiscomes of the experience of Jack Stribling.

This going cavalryman was one among ementy of the prisoners who were compelled to draw lots against death, so seriefy the morbid vengeznes of an implacable foe, but escaped drawing the fatal lot-which fell as goar James Miller-only to which to buy it, so utterly depleted meet death a few days later in a still more exuel and unwarrantable manwer. While ill and delirious from the Caricus and hardships of the fame assect, he one night staggered . week the dead line of one of

" gramm's "Bull Pens," and was shot were by a Federal guard, who did the Need as remorselessly as he might have felled an animal with a cudgel. And the last that his comrades of the much ever knew of him was that he had reseived a mortal wound and had been left to the care of strangers.

This knowledge reaching the fam-My at home, and they in terrible doubt as to whether Jack were dead ar still fingering there in the woods. and peckaps without attention, nerved his younger brother-who had just reached home from the battlefields of Virginia, the only survivor of four brothers of the family, and of sixteen other boys from four families of the meighborhood-to set out, facing all the hardehips and dangers insideat to the closing of a long and hard-fought war, and while yet unrecuperated from the depressing effects of hard service, to ascertain the fate of the lest brother, or to give him the macessary care and attention if found

Et was in the latter part of April, 1865, that I reached home a ragged salflier bay, half dead from hunger, fatigue and melancholy over defeat and loss. How vividly the scene and the sensations of the home-coming petura to me now as I write this, swelling my breast with an emotion like which there is nothing that comes to the heart of man in times of neese and plenty! I trudged along down the road leading to the old home firm. whence I, with three elder brothers, had gone forth three to four years before, and in the fullness and winger of young manhood to answer the resummeding call of the Southland: "To Arme!" It was all ve.y familiar to me: it was all very dear to me, and it was far this that I clinched at my heart, when the rush of feelings summer over me as I neared the old decretap. The bloody contest was at sa cad, but devastation and desolafor overhoug our once beautiful and Briegerous Southland like the pall of s mighty gloom. And, as I then viewed it, all-all seemed lost for the hope who were the grey, save their Kingsor. What a carnival of blood Bad beamin progress for four long peans. And as I looked upon the marre, which was at that midnight Logr sinking slowly toward the westcan horizon, it seemed to be going dawn in a sea of blood. But back there in the flowery valleys and upon the beentiful hills of Virginia, where the dage of war had howled and smuled for four hell-rife years, and the ducky ravens had croaked over caruage, seigned once more the white

dans of peade. A start wap upon the door of the Chart he was known to have been with ing material, all coming from the the South and trying to heat back the The gladdening sound of a woman's minded that shees, co. appeared its priceless usefulness that parriotle that is a few days, returning soil shoes constituted almost a deluge. To feel, to witness, to realise what ing's shadows and fell faintly upon suggestable womanly appeared that has been that parriotles ing's shadows and fell faintly upon suggestable womanly appeared to

After forty gears, Mr. B. Frank | diers from Johnson's army brought had been so recently devastated by destruction and ruin on every hand Railroads and their trestles had been demolished; wagon bridges had been burned, along with nearly all of the farm houses. Provisions for man, as well as food for beast, could not be had along this route for love or money. And had it been possible to purchase transportation or food, there was not to be had the money with were our resources, as well as those of our neighbors The entire Southern country was in the utmost confusion, and marauding bands of raiders, robbers and foragers were still busy looting every farm house and robbing es, box cars and flat cars; and these every wayfarer.

But notwithstanding all these things, the thought of my brother lying there somewhere, wounded and among strangers, nerved me to make the journey or to die in the attempt. ple tree. Soldiers were going both Upon this resolution I set out on the ways, and they were allowed to ride following day, driving an old gray mare to a time-used, rattling old buggy, from near what is now Seneca City, S. C., on my way into a strange country, under difficulties more trying crossing streams on pontoon bridges, and discouraging than anything wading and swimming other water which had confronted me during courses, and making my way over all the years of battle which had long gaps of torn-up railroad track. I passed. Before leaving home, six dollars and fifteen cents in silver, representing all the current money that could be gathered together throughout the neighborhood, was stitched inside of my coat collar and the waist band of my trousers with the exception of a few small pieces which had been left in my pockets to N. C., from which place it was my indelude would-be robbers.

I experienced no extrao trouble until I reached the Tiger River, South Carolina, on the road to Chester. The streams were much swollen from the recent heavy rains, and not a bridge spanned the water courses. But the old gray mare, as well as her driver, was a good swimmer, and the latter had learned well in the army the art of swimming horse s through streams both turbulent and pacific. So, when the dangerous Tiger River was reached, I guided the | uous game of hide-and-seek, tag or old mare in and well up the stream | touch and go, for a long distance down before striking the main current, that railroad. Fore and aft of the although the swift water was even train I dodged, getting off on one there more than 18 inches over the sest of the buggy. After a heroic struggle with the current, the old mare reached a flat landing on the opposite side of the river, where a few citizens of the neighborhood greeted me with cheers; and one man declared that he would not have taken the risk for the best plantation on Tiger ally thrown from the train when River. But such risks are not con- within about eighty-five miles of sidered when one is going to help a Fayetteville, the place of my destinawounded, perhaps dying, brother. I felt within me the rigid determination to overcome any and every obstacle |. that came in my way.

rest of my journey afoot. When near which finds its place in the breast of in loading their guns. They eyed me ly as I could determine, of Fayette-closely and their scrutiny wasnot very ville. In a few hours I came into comfortable to me. Whether this what had been a broad stage road, or enemies I had no means of knowing but it was now deserted. I tramped nor did 'i stop to enquire, rather an entire day along this desolate track will theme awoke from their fitfal choosing to take chances on develop- of Sherman's army, and saw not one stranters father, mother, young ments. But I was not long kept in living human being, horse, cow, hog sleep. Brothers and sisters, who came troop- doubt as to the nature of the gather- or the track of any of these. About ing forward to behold, returned to ing. Having entered the towe and the only creature left to be seen of chess, fastead of the strong son and reached a position just in front of the the domestic animal kind was an oc-Senther who had once remped over door of what was then known as the essional, new half wild, lonesome manhand, a ragged and haggard soldier at once startled by the sound of a big would invariably slink away at the ap-F told to the family the first commotion inside of the building, and mens of Lee's surrender; then came some one threw out at the door a side blackened chimney, the only remainthe question from the anxious of bacon, which struck me a fair ing object to indicate the spot where,

from the upper floor; and I a victim is the true meaning of the term, of theesterm trying hard to extricate myself from the vicinity of danger, I realized at once that this was a raid upon the C. S. A. commissary, and as no known commissioned officer was at hand to give orders, this soldier boy, recalling the old negro's saying, "Foot carry the body;" lit out from among the missiles of the hand fusillade and took shelter behind a large column in front of a hotel near by.

From this point of view I watched and at break-neck speed. Suddenly a sharp fight between the commissary guard and the raiders took place. and friend and foe were indistinguishable in the melee that followed. It rah for our side!" though I could not | which told of the carnage that had for the life of me tell which side was taken place there but a few weeks 'our side" until the odor of broiling before, and where the vultures and ham was wafted to my appreciative the ravens, and the wild and hungry nostrils from somewhere about the ho- dogs and other denizens of the swamps tel; and the source of this appetizing | had held high revel over the carcases odor proved, upon investigation, to of all, and torn to shreds the clothing come from the the back yard of the of both the blue and the grey. hostelry.

Making my way there, I found a very liberal and jolly crowd of homebound Confederate soldiers who were enjoying a spendid feast by a camp fire. At my approach these old comrades, though personal strangers, gave me a most hearty welcome and invited me to come up and help myself; and it has not been written that I refused this invitation.

Trains that were then running had no schedule, and there was no means of knowing when to expect one. They were made up of broken-down coachtrains were invariably loaded down with belated soldiers, who were hanging on and clinging to each other like the individuals of a swarm of bees suspended from the branch of an apon these trains as long as they could stick on. So, by taking advantage of these privileges, when epportunity presented itself, and by walking. finally covered the distance, by a hard struggle, from Chester, S. C., to Newbern, N. C., having come by way of Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh.

At Newbern I found myself in a veritable hotbed of smallpox, then a great epidemic. I boarded a Yankee military train bound for Wilmington, tention to go up the Cape Fear River at Fayetteville. But, alas, the old grey uniform, though faded and sadly out of repair, at once spotted the robel soldier boy to the conductor-a Federal captain-as a subject for the greatest possible levy that the passenger's purse would stand.

But the "Johnnie Reb." as these train guards found it amusing to call me, showed at once a determiration neither to pay nor to get off of the train. And now came a most strenside and back on at the opposite side. leaving the train at one end to climb aboard again at the other, until the conductor's aunoyance reached the stage of exasperation. He finally called a number of others to his aid, and their combined forces served to overcome me, and I was at last litertion, and where I hoped to find my poor, wounded brother.

When near Chester the faithful old were now about exhausted; but the six gray mare was forced to give up the dollars and fifteen cents in silver, trip, being no longer able to draw the which had been stitched into the a good farmer, and set out upon the With that unfaltering resolution upon a very suspicious looking com- took up my march through the deep pany of men who were busily engaged woods, going in the direction, as nearmixed company consisted of friends leading from Fayetteville to Newlers. proach of the stranger behind some

"Warfare's Devastations," one must have passed through the country which I then traversed and at the time of which I write. During the long day's march over this broad stage road, now overgrown with weeds and grass that had crept up through interstices between the poles and boards of the old rotting plank roadway, that led through this boggy section in stretches of miles in extent, I felt the awful significance of the spectacle wagons going by in every direction around me. On all sides were to be seen the charred remains of once happy homes, the blackened chimneys standing like gloomy memorials, Shotguns, revolvers and rocks were pointing toward Heaven in silent but brought into service, and bullets and intense supplication, calling upon other missiles flew in all directions, God to witness the devastated pathway of one of the most hell-inspired armies that ever traversed the bounis needless to say that I kept my teous land of a civilized nation. At bomb-proof position behind the big places along this road were to be seen column, and could only yell with more | the bones of men and snimals, minor less amusement at the confused gled with the fragments of the blue situation of the participants: "Hur- and grey uniforms of both armies,

> After traveling about twenty miles the first day, the friendly darkness of night shut out from view the day' pageant of horror, and I sank upon the ground and soon fell asleep, peacefully, despite the knowledge that the coming of another day must renew to my eyes the terrible scene of the devastation around me. My fatigue was such that nothing disturbed my slumbers during the night, except occasionally when a chorus of plaintive hooting from the swamp owls and the pitiful howling of the lost and famished dogs that had taken shelter in the wilderness came to my ears with especial clearness and in sistence.

I was awakened by a singular pulling at my haversack, now about empty, while a sound of sniffing reached my ears. I sat up, and this sudden sign of life in a mistaken corpse caused a lank, half-starved dog to flee for his life, while a flock of ravens in a tree-top near by-which had no doubt been feasting sumptiously upon the late carnage of Sherman's march to the sea-croaked their disappointment at this same sign of life in what had promised another feast for them and their kind. The morning was foggy and damp. The heavy dew drops, falling from the trees, seemed like tears of deep sorrow shed over the surrounding scene of desolation. If Sherman had not himsel, said that "war is hell," one who runs might have read . ere in erimson, cruel and awful guage and in the remorseless handwriting country, To me, as I gazed around me, the firing of the guns of an advancing army would have been a welcome reliaf, for the feeling of depression which came upon me, and which was akin to a state of halting preference between life and death, almost overcame me.

But the thought of "Jacky," my brother, lying there at Fayetteville and perhaps moaning for the sight and the help of a brother, and a thought of the mother at home now waiting auxiously and amid the uncertainty of whether she would ever see either of us again alive, nerved me onward; and I again took up my staff to try to shorten the sixty miles that still lay between me and my wounded brother. The second day's tramp was mainly a repetition of the first, with the exception that my mind, nauscated as it were by the continuous spectable of horror, became still more depressed, At sundown, after a weary walk of twenty-five miles, I was in reality a worn-out and poor, wounded brother.

The six days' rations, which had mind. Still, suring this entire constituted the store of my haversack; second day, not the sight of a single human being had some to bless my tired eyes. And as I sank down at nightfall the fear that I might not be buggy after her. So I left her with bands of my clothing, was still intact. able to arise in the morning and that here I shou'd die unknown, unattendthe town limits of Chester I came the true and tried veteran, I egain the prey of hungry vultures, ravens the prey of hungry vultures, revens and wild dogs, the only apparent introduced the description of this description of this description of the des thought to a sick and tired brain. Weak of limb and faint, I leaned for

But the awful stillness, the deathly silence of the twilight was suddenly broken to my ears, and I hantily first and dole in the vigor of young Confederate commissary. I was all leoking, famished and lost dog, which aroused myself from the lasistence of of my surire service during all the slumber. A distant human-like voice years of the war; and woon I go back had broken the stillness, of the hour, in my thoughts to the wonderful part Gould it have been the cry of a pan- in that fight for the lost cause which ther of the swamps? A slight chill was played by the women of the Conunother: "Where is Jacky?" The broadside and sent me sprawling into a few weeks before had resided some cause of such a cry sank into my indicate the spot where, there invariably somes up in the gatter. Following this came a struggling family of women and children of such a cry sank into my indicate the sprawling into a few weeks before had resided some cause of such a cry sank into my indicate the possible significance. The passed over me as the possible significance, there invariably somes up in the cause of such a cry sank into my indicate the possible significance. The passed over me as the possible significance, there invariably somes up in the cause of such a cry sank into my indicate the possible significance. The passed over me as the possible significance, there invariably somes up in the cause of such a cry sank into my indicate crail tell them nothing further than other articles of provision, and cloth, were away fighting for the cause of swelled, and tells came to my eyes, shall ever deam them; and I am se

my ear, soothing my brain gently its place only in the heart of the Con- you reconcile this assertion with the with the sweetness of its call, for it was saying: "Sookey, sookey, sook!" A woman's voice calling to her cow, far away through the forest. It was home like, it was touching to my soul, and I turned my footsteps in the direction whence it came.

came into an open pathway, and along this I continued my way as rapidly as my bodily suffering would allow, and presently came upon a small cabin, made of poles, from whose rude stack smoke, giving to the surroundings a most humble but home-like appearance. It proved to be the hiding place of a mother and daughter who had fled from the wrath of Sherman's mansion, and taking with them nothing but the simple foods necessary to sustain life, together with a faithful cow, which they had concealed in the swamp. And in this manner they had escaped the horrors of the firebrand and the humiliations ond profanations which they might have suffered at the sons. hands of Sherman's beastly soldiers. It would be hard to say on which side lay the balance of gratification at this meeting, whether upon mine for the night in the wilderness of North Carsight of theze lonely women of the olina. But my physical and mental Confederacy with their heavenly condition was such at the time that I facen and their eyes that expressed the groat soul-deep sympathy of fellow creatures in affliction, or upon theirs for the sight of a lad who were the torn and tattered, but still deveutly loved, grey. Not since the passing of Sherman's army had these women of refinement seen the face of a human being besides their own, for to Raleigh. In this latter city the it was from this lone cabin a hard foot-sore boy in grey actually drew day's walk to the nearest standing three days' rations from a Yankee habitation of man.

. I did not fully realize how utterly ill I was until I had told to these women the story of the South's defeat, the tale of my present mission into the country and had utterly collapsed for a time, unable to speak, from choking tears of emotion at my welcome there and from my bodily weakgreater than that of these two women who, with motherly kindness and care on the part of one, and sisterly sympathy and attention on the part of the other, were glad to administer to the comfort of the sick stranger, but brother in affliction, who had been thus suddenly thrust upon their bounty. And when I had given the address of a mother who was waiting back there in South Carolina for the return of her son, or sons, begging that she should be notified, should my illness prove fatal here, their sympathy kindled anew and with a holier essence, and no restraint was put upon the tears which coursed down those gentle cheeks.

In the true spirit of hospitality and patriotism, nowhere else so abundanti demonstrated as among the noble women of the Confederacy, these two exremedies at their command; and the counted. morning found me very much improved, though still weak and worn out; and it has always appeared to me that the gods of war, in a momentary spirit of humanity, had spared these two guardian angels to succor those of the hard-fought battles who had gone to them in such sore need, as had been mine, when I found them there in the gloomy and dismai swamp, on my way to the resone, if possible, of still an-

other sufferer, my brother. After a light breakfast, such as these two lone souls had to offer, and with a beart again overflowing. I bade my benefactresses an emotional farewell and again set out, this time upon my last day's walk toward Fayetteville, travcling during the day through the battle ground of the last day's fighting of the Confederate war, which had ocourred even after the surrender of Gen. Lee, and during which my brother had been captured. I reached the forry on Cape Fear River about sua-down. For my passage across the stream the ferryman demanded and got afficen cents, the only money which I paid out during the entire journey to and from the town of Payctteville.

Acriving in the town I found that

a band of noble women, heaven inwhat might change to be my last whose hearts could not be intim

It is now more than forty ye since I made this journey, and I recall it as the most trying experience

things of the woodland, ravens, vul- der'?" tures and domestic dogs frightened, famished and gone back to the habits of wolves and hyenas, lived these two women, far from any human being besides themselves; but in their breasts Keeping in this direction I soon existed that characteristic nobility and bravery which has had an equal in no other civilized land. Ah, men may go, and the sons of Confederate poldiers may pass the tombs of their fathers chimney was rising a faint column of | by unnoticed, the darkest days of political adversity may spread over this the muddy water. It was so hot that beautiful Southland of ours like a lall the other passengers were below pall, threatening to shut out the light | asleep. of the noonday sun, but the noble women and the daughters of the Confedarmy, leaving behind every comfort eracy will never forget to do honor to and every luxury of a once splendid the name of the boys who wore the grey. And the remaining stragglers of the once heroic army, who are still here to-day, trust that in writing history of and erecting monuments to the memory of the Confederate soldier, the women of the war may not be forgotten by their daughters and their

> It has been a deep regret of my life that I failed to preserve the names of the two women who nursed me that somehow failed to do this. I intended to again seek the cabin on my return and renew the acquaintance begun under such peculiar circumstances, but my desire to hurry home once more, to relieve the auxiety of the loved ones there, caused me to take a short route, which led directly from Fayetteville commissary, the first bit of kindness he had ever received at the hands of his enemies.

Boarding the first train that came along I "hoboed" the entire return boat. trip, by Greensboro and Charlotte, to Chester, S. C., where I found the old grey mare and the rickety old buggy still waiting for me, having been well ness. And my own emotion was not cared for by the friend with whom I had left them. By walking up hill and riding down-hill, and after another weary journey over rough roads, I once more reached the old home, where I was welcomed as one returned from the dead, for I had been gone an entire month, and the journey had been the most trying and the hardest service I had been called upon to render during the whole war.

As I have said I made this trip on an expenditure of only fifteen cents. Where, I ask, is the professional "hobe" of to-day who could go over the same ground, starting with six dollars and fafteen cents, and returning after a month's absence with six dellars of the original money still intact?

Among a people with the unfalterthose of that day, one need not be rich. It was the old faded Confedeiled swamp angels nursed me through trate uniform which constituted the out the night, administering the simple | passport, where money would not have

J. C. Stribbliog, Oer's Bifles, later Butledge Mounted Riflemen and Horse Artillery, Trenholm's Squadron; closed services with 7th S. C. cavalry.

bio Reason.

One of the witnesses called in Chicago divorece case last year was a highly respected clergyman in the Windy City. According to one of the counsel in the case the following conversation took place between the judge and the minister. Said his honors

"Dr. Blank, if you were on the bench in my stead, and were as fly, and didn't fly out of this pick-quainted with all the circunstances of pocket town. I don't want to have this case, would you grant this di- anything to do with."

"Assuredly, I would, Your Hon-" replied the clergyman, without the least hesitation. "But," said the judge, "how do lord is a host in himself.

federate women. There in that vast injunction of Scripture, 'Whom God swamp, inhabited only by the wild bath joined let no man put asun-

"Your Honor," responded the minister, with convincing gravity, "I am quite satisfied that the Almighty never joined this couple."-Harper's weekly.

How the Captain Caught a Thief.

A dingy steamer was plodding down the Mississippi. A boy sat in the stern, vainly trolling for catfish in

The steamer suddenly whistled, a town of gray frame houses hove in sight, and a hot young man with a big telescope valise nurried up the companion way. "I'll get off here, captain," he

said.

"Your ticket sin't for here," the captain growled.

"I know, but I've changed my mind," said the youth.

A fer minutes later he and his 'telescope valise' were lauded on the wormeaten old wharf of the tows of Cicero, and the dingy steamer was plodding down the river again.

She had gone about a mile when another young man rushed from below wild-eyed.

"My telescope!" he cried. "Some one has stolen my telescope. There was \$1,700 in it.'

The captain started. He looked back at Cicero, which now lay hidden behind a bend of the river. He called the mate, and told him to cover the bow with some black tarpaulin, to move certain pleces of cargo aft, and to tie some white cauvas around the smoke stack. Then he turned the steamer around, and she began to move upstream toward Cicero again. She looked like a different

At Cicero she stopped. On the deserted wharf there was one personthe young man with the telescape who had been landed there. He leaped aboard now, the boat warped out into the stream, and then the captain appeared.

"Hello," said the captain. "Why, this is the same boat I---The young man trembled.

"It certainly is," said the captain, and this, I reckon, is the valise we same back for."

He opened the telescope, and withn, in a wallet, lay the stolen money. The owner readily identified his belongings. The thief was put in irons in the engine room .- Chicago Thronicle.

Smellynoaster Ham.

A friend of Snollygoaster Ham, the months ago that fun maker was in Chicago and had the misfortune to have his purse stolen, leaving him stranded. Ham was known at the hotel and managed to get the propnietor to stake him until he got a check from the lecture bureau.

The Snollygoaster was feeling sere when he ambled into a restaurant and endered dinner, asking the waiter what was 'teal.'

"Teal, sir; that's duck," was the

"Duck? "Yes, sir.

"Got wings?" Yes, sir.

"And could it fly?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, I don't want any, then.

Anything that had wings, and could

- He who is chased by a dog is apt to bark his shins.

- Solitary and alons a hotel land-

The Secret-of Good LION COFFEE, the leater of all package